

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2018 SUMMER...ISSUE #3/4

*Discovering our history,
Preserving our past,
Sharing our stories.*



Brian Jenkins will serve as Master of Ceremonies at the annual benefit.

Ames Historical Society Board:

Co-President Sharon Wirth
Co-President Peter Hallock
Secretary Lynette Spicer
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Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Keith Bystrom, Dan Franklin, Sarah Kassen, Mary Logsdon, Bonnie Norman, Clarke Pasley, Ryan Riley,
The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Staff:

Executive Director Casie Vance
Research & Exhibits Manager Alex Fejfar
Collections Manager Carly Hlubek

Emeritus Staff:

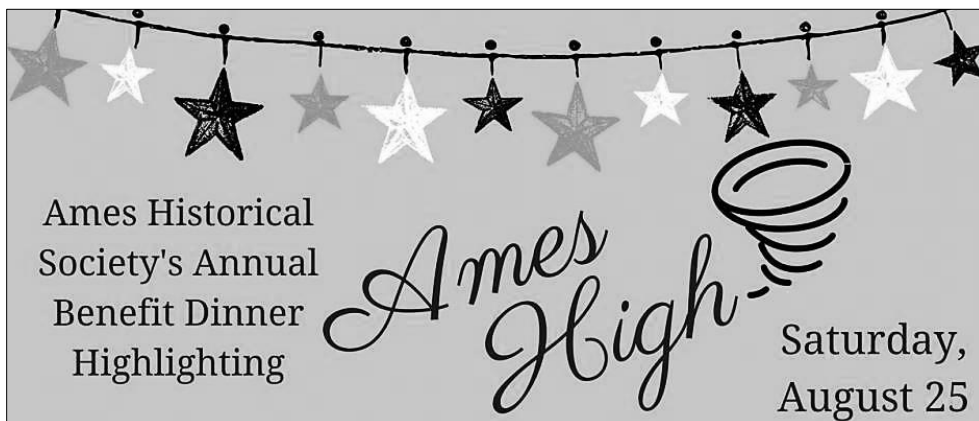
Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Headquarters: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Hours Tue. – Sat. 10 am - 4 pm
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515-232-2148
E-mail: info@ameshistory.org
Website: www.AmesHistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The **newsletter** is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School near 18th and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Open Sundays 2-4 pm, June 10 to August 12 and by appointment from April to October. Closed November to March.



Please Join the Celebration at the Annual Benefit Dinner!

The themes for our annual benefits are often set by the year's exhibit at the History Center. This year's display, *Ames Hi Aiming High Through the Years* inspired us to hold the party at the Ames High School Cafeteria!
Location: 1921 Ames High Drive. Open to the public.

Please join us as we celebrate Ames history with an Ames High themed dinner. Dress is business casual, with the option to dress according to your high school decade or to wear - what else? - orange and black.

Saturday, August 25, Schedule for the evening:

- 5:00pm - Socializing, raffle and exhibits
- 6:00pm – Dinner
- Program to follow

Master of Ceremonies: Brian Jenkins, Class of 1976, celebrated news correspondent and distinguished Ames High alumnus will talk about how Ames High helped “launch” him to success.

2018 Farwell T. Brown Awardee: Janet Klaas

2018 Ames History Maker Awardee: Adams Family

Auction and raffle items include:

- Iowa State sports tickets
- Artwork by Jo Myers-Walker and Stewart Buck
- Chicago Bulls tickets from alumnus Fred Hoiberg
- Gift cards to local restaurants
- Dinner for Six at The Roosevelt

Auctioneers: Ted Tedesco and John Klaus

Tickets are \$60 each. Please use the reply card that you received in the mail or purchase tickets online at www.ameshistory.org by August 14.

All proceeds from the evening support Ames Historical Society's mission to provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Grateful thanks to our event sponsors:

NORTHCREST
community
Uniquely Tours, Uniquely Home

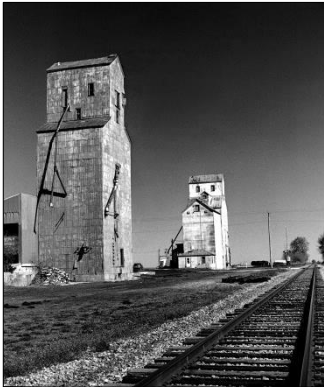
ADAMS FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATION SERVICES

Continuing and Upcoming Exhibits at the History Center

Ames High Exhibit Closes Aug. 12

The exhibit at the History Center, *Ames Hi Aiming High Through the Years* features the four buildings that, through time, have housed our city's high school. It will be on view at 416 Douglas **to August 12**. Accompanying the artifacts is a wall of names of all 26,738 Ames High graduates. Visitors are encouraged to highlight their names and those of their families and friends.

Cathedrals of the Plains



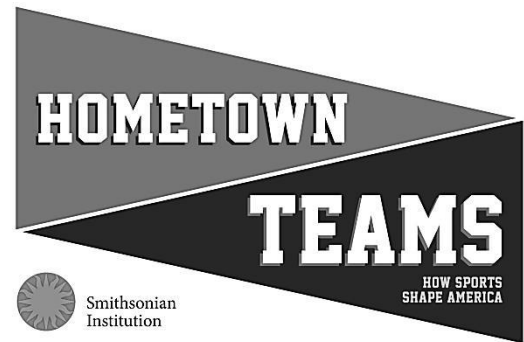
Opening to the public on August 16, 4-6pm, will be *Cathedrals of the Plains*, A Photo Series of Midwest Grain Elevators. The exquisite black and white photographs of Judith Eastburn will be featured, each with information about the structure shown.

Her photographs will be paired with artifacts and stories about Ames' own Froning & Deppe Elevator (below) that was located behind Main Street until 1979. At the August 16 event, visit with Judith Eastburn and Bob Deppe. The exhibit will continue to September 22.



Coming in Early December

The exhibition after *Hometown Teams* will feature selected early images of Ames collected by Farwell Brown, the Society's founder. Titled, *Exploring Historic Ames: Unique Selections from the Farwell T. Brown Archive*, the display will feature some of the more interesting images Brown gifted to the community. Among them will be a life-sized enlargement of the famous "H" tree! The show will continue into next year.



Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America

is a touring exhibition, part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and Humanities Iowa. See it from Sept. 29 to Nov. 11.

The exhibit captures the stories and drama that unfolds on neighborhood fields and courts: underdog heroics, larger-than-life legends, fierce rivalries and gut-wrenching defeats.

For more than 100 years, sports have reflected the trials and triumphs of the American experience and helped shape the national character. Whether it is professional sports or those played on the collegiate or scholastic level, amateur sports or sports played by kids on the local playground - sports are everywhere in America.

The exhibit demonstrates how our hometown sports energize the community, instill pride and create a bond that is passed from one generation to the next. Connections to sports span generations. For much of our lives, sports and hometown teams play a big role in defining who we are.



Five-Part Exhibit

In Ames, *Hometown Teams* will be a multi-part exhibit. The Smithsonian exhibit will be at the Octagon Center for the Arts (427 Douglas). Complimentary exhibits developed locally will be at the History Center, Little Woods Herbs & Teas (136 Main), Design on Main (203 Main) and Ames Public Library (515 Douglas). A map will be available to guide visitors to all the exhibits.

At the History Center will be sports-related artifacts from our collection, featuring many different sports from Ames High to Iowa State to community teams.

Open Extra Hours

For this exhibit, the History Center will be open extra hours: Monday - Saturday 10-5; Sunday 1-5. On view just six weeks - so, don't miss it!



“Teams” Events

Join us for five special events in conjunction with the *Hometown Teams* exhibit:

Thursday, October 4, 5:00-7:00 pm

Opening reception and tailgate - 400 block of Douglas.

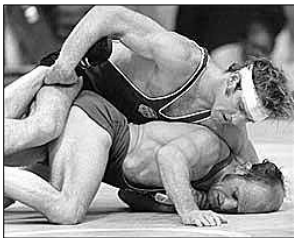
Saturday, October 6, 10:00 am

Remembering 6-on-6, a lecture by the Iowa Women's Archives. From 10:30 am to 2:00 pm, come tell your story and share your photos with the Iowa Women's Archives. Ames Public Library, Danfoss Room.

Tuesday, October 9, 7:00 pm

More Than Just a Game: Stories of Discrimination in Sports, a lecture presented by the African American Museum of Iowa. Ames Public Library Auditorium.

Wednesday, October 17, 4:00 to 5:30 pm



Community reception with Dan Gable at Little Woods Herbs & Teas, 136 Main Street. At 6pm, *A Wrestling Life*, a lecture and book signing by Gable.

Monday, October 22, 7:00 pm

Iowans in Baseball, a lecture by John Liepa. View Liepa's extensive collection of memorabilia and cards before and after the lecture. Ames Public Library Auditorium.

All events are free and open to the public.

Current Hallway Exhibits

Fly With Banning

James Herman Banning was the first African American pilot to fly across the United States. He learned to fly while living in Ames.

Artifacts from the Attic: Dolls

The story of a family doll found in an Ames attic and other dolls from our collection.

Ames Bottlers

This exhibit provides information about two bottling companies in Ames.

Younkers Little Shop

The Ames store on Main Street, known as "Younkers Little Shop," was the first branch store, opening in 1941.

Hoggatt Summer Programs

Summer activities at Hoggatt School are winding down, so please join us for the remaining programs and open houses! Regular open hours will close after August 12. Tours can be scheduled by appointment until Oct. 31.

- Sunday, August 5, 2018 - 2:15pm
Plants of the Iowa Prairie

Explore the many different types of prairie plants that once covered this region. Presenter: Master gardener, Lisa Hein Sage.

- Sunday, August 12, 2018 – 2 pm to 4 pm
1860s Schoolyard Games

Join in the entertaining games that 1860s students played at recess! Led by Ryan Riley.

Free and open to the public.

Electrifying!

Thanks are due to Nelson Electric for donating their services to run an electrical line from Meeker School. When Hoggatt was moved in 2015, conduit was laid, entering the school inconspicuously inside a broom closet. Having electricity in the school will enhance programs and greatly ease maintenance.



Nelson's is a historic business established in 1908 when electricity was becoming a necessity for business, industry and residences. When the Ames power plant could no longer keep up with the demands for electrical contracting services, young entrepreneur C.B. "Ben" Nelson took a risk, leaving his job at the plant to establish his own business, the Nelson Electric Company.

Hoggatt Hosts Celebration

First Baptist Church of Ames is celebrating its 150th anniversary this summer.

The "Squaw Creek Church" was an early church in the area, predating the city of Ames. It was a Baptist congregation, organized in 1860 with eight members. After Hoggatt School was built in 1862, the members worshiped there.



On June 3 as a part of its sesquicentennial celebration, the congregation went "back to its roots" and worshiped at Hoggatt School. Some of the music for the service reflected the songs and style of that time period.

Cemetery Walk Set for Oct. 14



The date for the 2018 Fall Cemetery Walk is **Sunday, October 14, 2:00 pm** at the Ames Municipal Cemetery, at 9th and Maxwell.

The Walk will feature costumed actors “in character” relating the stories of six or eight notable women from Ames history. Attendees should gather at the Greeley Mausoleum, directly east of the main gates and bring lawn chairs or blankets – the “walk” will be stationary!

Rain date: Sunday, October 21, 2:00 pm.

News briefs

- Opening *Cathedrals of the Plains*, Sun., Aug. 16, 4-6pm, at the History Center, 416 Douglas.
- Opening *Hometown Teams*, Thur., Oct. 4, 5-7pm, 400 block of Douglas.
- When shopping on Amazon, remember to log in to Amazon’s charitable giving program, Amazon Smile, (smile.amazon.com) to return a portion of your purchases to the Society!
- Join the 2,466 people who “like” us on Facebook. The historical photos that appear each week in the **Ames Tribune** are posted on our Facebook page. We enjoy the reactions and comments!
- Don’t forget to take a look at and ask to be “friended” on the “**Lost Ames**” Facebook page.
- The first of two out-of-print Farwell T. Brown books has been **re-issued**: *A Soldier’s Life*, about his grandfather’s Civil War experiences. His first book, *Ames in Word and Pictures*, will soon follow.

Endowment Update

At the close of 2017, the Society’s Endowment stood at \$145,743. With the recent bequests from Dottie Tschopp McGee and Peter Reilly, the total now stands at **\$171,027**. The Endowment provides important funding for day-to-day operations at the History Center.

Main Street on National Register

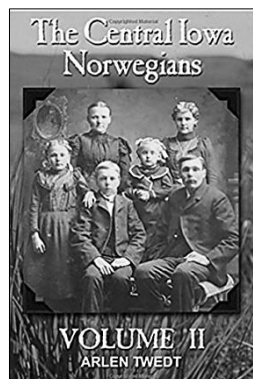
After a decade’s worth of work, Ames’ Main Street is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The **DOWNTOWN AMES** designation covers 81 properties from Duff to Clark Avenues, between the railroad tracks and 5th Street. The designation makes buildings in the district eligible for federal rehabilitation grants and federal and state tax credits for preservation and rehabilitation projects.

Main Street joins the Old Town neighborhood as the only other “district” listed on the Register in Ames. Several other buildings and structures in Ames are already on the list, including City Hall, Bandshell Park, the 1915 City Hall (5th and Kellogg), buildings on the Iowa State campus and other bridges and structures.

Kim Hanna, chair of the city’s Historic Preservation Commission, said getting the district on the Register required an initial survey of property owners that began more than 10 years ago but fell by the wayside. Years later, the survey and application process was restarted with help from an Iowa State professor and student working in historic preservation.

Story County Norwegian History

Arlen Twedt, author, historian and native of Roland, has published his second volume about Norwegians who settled in central Iowa.



Norwegian immigrants founded settlements near Cambridge in 1855 and east of Story City in 1856. Twenty-five years later, 6,500 Norwegians were living in central Iowa - the third most popular settlement for Norwegian immigrants in Iowa.

Volume 2 contains memoirs and biographies describing pioneer life in the 1850s and ’60s, plus an essay describing interactions with members of the Meskwaki tribe who hunted in Story County.

Volume 1 of “The Central Iowa Norwegians” was published in 2017. In it, Twedt covers 1855 to 1880, tracing migration from farms along fjords in southwest Norway to northern Illinois and westward to Iowa.

Volumes 1 and 2 of “The Central Iowa Norwegians” are available on amazon.com and can be ordered through local bookstores. Volume 3 will be published in 2020.

Society Wish List

Our **grateful thanks** go to Doug & Wendy Livy who donated file folders; to Mason Porter, Mary Gardner and Judy Allen for donating Spirit yearbooks. We now have all Ames High Spirits except for 1953! And we would still take additional copies of 1930s or earlier editions.



Continued wishes:

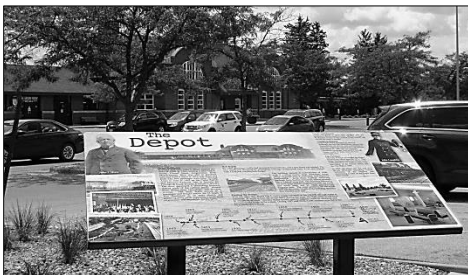
- Donations to purchase **Polk Directories**. We have a complete set of historical city directories, but are missing some of the more modern years: 2009 and 2011 through 2017. They cost \$115 each; we would love to purchase these for our reference collection, or if you have these books, please consider donating them! They are unique in that listings are sorted alphabetically, by address and by phone number.
- Ames **photos** from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive).
- Ongoing **subscription** to newspaperarchive.com (6 months - \$99.95).
- Funds for **archival boxes** (approximately \$13 each), containers we endlessly need.
- Office and building **supplies**: computer printer paper, trash bags, glass cleaner, tissues, etc.
- Additional donations toward **printing** the new Campustown walking tour brochure in color.

Let us know if you can help by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing info@ameshistory.org.

New Plaques in Place

Four new historical building plaques are now in place on Main Street: Moorman Clothiers (226 Main), Design on Main, formerly Tilden's Store (207 Main), the former "gas office" (131 Main) and KHOI radio, the former Pantorium (410 Douglas).

Also in place is a large, color interpretive panel for the former Chicago & Northwestern RR Depot at Main and Clark. It features pictures, a timeline and interesting facts about this once-bustling transportation hub.



The Project is coordinated by the Society, Ames Historic Preservation Commission and Main Street District. Plaque funding is from the Historic Preservation Commission's budget and donations by store owners.

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On July 22, Ginny Huntington and Gayle Huey shared their vintage pencil box collection with Hoggatt School visitors and conducted a cursive writing lesson with old-fashioned ink pens.



On June 1 during Main Street's ArtWalk, Tribune editor, artist and cartoonist, Carmen Cerra, displayed his artwork.



On June 26, Teresa Wilhelm Waldof related the story of her grandfather, Harley Wilhelm, to a standing-room-only crowd. Harley was the WW II Manhattan Project scientist who discovered the way to economically purify large quantities of uranium. His personal "E" flag (for excellence in war production) was displayed by his four children.



At a Main Street Farmer's Market, Exec. Dir. Casie Vance's husband and daughter helped out at the History Trailer. The trailer has also been in Campustown and at Northcrest.

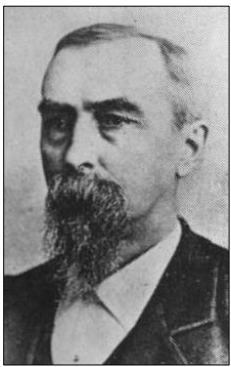
Newspaper Marks 150 Years

2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the Ames Tribune. The paper started in 1868, just four years after Ames was established and has been in continuous publication. This story adapted from Farwell Brown's first book relates one of the paper's more tumultuous chapters.

Clark vs. Duncan: 1886

"When a newcomer goes to you and represents his business as equal to that of his (long established) neighbor's, put him down as a champion liar. . . ." In the 1880s, going into competition with an established newspaper run by a veteran country editor could be a hazardous occupation!

Such a melodrama played out in Ames in 1886. What happened might have been predicted when two newspaper editors went after the same patrons in so small a village as Ames (population 1,317).



It started on a cold day in the winter of 1885. John Duncan (left) had been a newspaperman in Wisconsin before becoming editor of the weekly *Ames Intelligencer*. The shop was on the south side of Main Street near Kellogg. E.W. Clark, in early 1885, came to Ames from Illinois to start a competing weekly paper known as the *Monitor*. Clark's shop was also on the south side of Main Street, midway between Kellogg and Douglas.

Duncan had been secure in his position as publisher-editor of Ames' first and only newspaper. Clark was young, inexperienced and ambitious but had some influential backing, including Cpt. Wallace M. Greeley. Duncan was not pleased and he had plenty to say.

"No one has such a high estimation of his calling and dignity and brains and character as a new-fledged editor," Duncan wrote at one point, referring to "the imported genius who did the heavy editorial act in the Baby Bumble Bee the last few weeks...." Duncan was referring to the *Monitor* when he mentioned the "Bumble Bee" in his editorials.

Duncan considered himself to be "Mr. Republican" and he considered the *Intelligencer* to be the spokesman for Republican Party interests in the Ames area. When Clark picked "The Only Live Republican Paper in Story County" for his slogan, he had thrown coal oil on Duncan's fire.



Main Street, north side between Douglas and Kellogg, 1895

In December, one of Duncan's men looked out of the south window of the *Intelligencer* shop and saw Will Reynolds, the *Monitor*'s printer, picking up coal along the C. & N.W. tracks. The man climbed onto a coal car and filled his bucket, then hastily returned to the *Monitor* shop. Duncan got the perfect opportunity to retaliate in his next editorial. To his characterization of Clark being a liar, he added that he was also a thief.

Clark sought the counsel of the law firm of Turner and Smith. Duncan soon received notice of suit for libel. Clark claimed injury to his business and character in the amount of \$3,000, plus costs.

Duncan's editorial of January 28, 1886, quoted the plaintiffs bill of particulars in detail, referring to it as the "Baby's Whine." "Our Baby Bumble Bee is not so much after 'character' as 'filthy lucre' to replenish his exchequer." Clark and the *Monitor* by this time were struggling for existence and Duncan would make the most of the situation.

Duncan's editorial remarks continued to poke rather sharp remarks at Clark and the situation in general. The railroad might bring charges for the loss attended by the "free hand drawing of carbon," for example.

No copies or records of the *Monitor* exist today. The only source of Clark's side of the argument are based on what Duncan reported in the *Intelligencer* and the comments of Clark's attorney in the *Nevada Watchman*.

The case was tried in the District Court in March of 1886. Duncan was represented by George Underwood, a well-known Ames lawyer of that day. Clark's witnesses were primarily three prominent Ames business men, Capt. Wallace Greeley, Parley Sheldon and L.Q. Hoggatt. He could hardly have had better support.

Witnesses for Duncan were the owners of the lumberyard adjacent to the *Intelligencer* office. Their testimony supported the charge that *Monitor* people were seen picking up coal along the tracks and from a coal car.

The court found for the plaintiff. Duncan was found guilty of the charge claimed in the suit. But the damage award was not the three thousand dollars asked. The award was exactly one dollar.

Duncan sharpened his pencil again. This time his editorial dealt with Clark's "one dollar character." The court had spoken, he implied, now we know what his character is worth.

You would think Duncan, not Clark, had won. He gave it nearly three columns on the front page! He reported much of the testimony of his own witnesses but not those of Clark's. The editorial practically repeated all of the allegations that had brought on the squabble in the first place.

But Duncan didn't get the last word. The *Nevada Watchman*, commenting on the verdict, said, "According to the jury in the recent libel case from Ames, the character of an editor is worth one dollar, that is a cruel joke on the fraternity at large. Better keep out of a court of law at such figures."

In the *Watchman*, Clark's lawyer, C.E. Turner, presented a strong rebuttal to Duncan's editorial. Clark's character had been vindicated and the allegations made by Duncan in his paper were unsupported. He wrote that Duncan's post-trial article was "A tissue of false assumption and forced conclusions. . ."

Turner stated that word from a jury spokesman following the trial indicated that they had not been impressed with Duncan's testimony under oath. As for the \$1.00 damages, that was the jury's estimate of the value they placed upon Duncan's opinion of the man. Turner reported that the jury did not think Duncan's opinion carried the kind of credibility to be damaging. But they were unanimous in believing that Duncan had libeled Clark.

Turner was concerned for Clark. "For weeks poor Clark, in a weak condition of health, had borne up under a mental strain as would have prostrated many men of greater physical strength, with only the consciousness of his innocence to sustain him. The trial is over, and Clark is made happy by his vindication. Let him begin a new life," were Turners words.

Clark suffered great anxiety throughout the experience and his health made a turn for the worse. On March 26, 1886, Clark died of tuberculosis at the age of 30. Not long after, the *Monitor* ceased publication.

In the end, the sharp-tongued, outspoken Duncan once again held the only newspaper in Ames.

THE AMES
INTELLIGENCER.

Society News

Volunteers Needed

Digitization: A big goal for the Society is the digital preservation of much of our collection. We are looking for volunteers to scan photos and other resources. Scanning projects are ongoing and can include: scanning city directories, Ames and Story County maps, Ames Tribune negatives and photographs. No experience is necessary, but computer familiarity is a plus.



Artifact Inventory: Volunteers are needed to help with the inventory of all of our historical artifact collections. Volunteers will assist the Collections Manager in recording data, photo taking, organizing, and paper work. Volunteers will be trained on proper museum handling and procedures.

Volunteer opportunities are typically available Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-4pm, or other times by arrangement. Please call or email your interest.

Preserving a Legacy

The Martin House was built at 218 Lincoln Way around 1919 by Archie and Nancy Martin, both of whom were born into slavery. The house served as a meeting place and boarding home for African-American students attending Iowa State College during a period of



restrictive on-campus housing for blacks in the 1930's and 40's. The Martins migrated north to Ames in 1913 with their six adult chil-

dren to make a better life and, in doing so, became one of the earliest African American families of Ames. The house still stands at its original location and is in need of restoration. The family is asking for help and has registered with go-fund-me.com> Martin House Restoration. Help if you can!

Ames Historical Society
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Ames, Iowa 50010

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Museum Shop



MEMBER BENEFIT:

15% off all shop items, all the time!

YOUNKERS

Shoppers saddened by the Younkens going-out-of-business sales may find the book, *Younkers, the Friendly Store*, a delightful reminder. In stock in our shop, \$20

NEW ORNAMENT

A porcelain ornament featuring the Dinkey is now available – a sweet memento of a memorable era in Ames history. White/black/burgundy, \$10

AMES, IOWA TEE-SHIRT

Black or grey; just \$12

Open hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm



Two young visitors to Hoggatt School really got into the spirit of the 1860s by wearing their pioneer school girl outfits!

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online at our updated website!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010